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# DN EXTRA

July 2006



## Dame Jane

Top honour for Campbell

## Unreasonable adjustment

Exam nightmare for deaf students



## DN EXTRA...

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# Dame Jane heads honours list

BY JULIE GRIFFITHS

Veteran disability rights campaigner Jane Campbell (pictured on the cover) has spoken of her delight at being made a Dame in the Queen's birthday honours.

The DRC (Disability Rights Commission) commissioner, who resigned as chair of the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) last year to campaign against moves to legalise assisted dying, was honoured for services to social care and disabled people.

As former director of the National Centre for Independent Living, she played a prominent role in securing direct payments for disabled people.

She said she was delighted that disability rights and social care had been recognised but the honour reflected a collective passion shared with many friends and colleagues.

She said: "Nobody achieves this level of honour alone, so I hope others can feel they have a share in the recognition. I am hoping it will open a few more doors and of course get me the window seat in restaurants!"

Among other disabled figures honoured was Saghir Alam



(above), a fellow DRC commissioner, who received an OBE for services to disabled people.

He said: "It's quite a surprise, if I'm honest, but a very pleasant one. I'm in my mid-thirties, so quite young, and I didn't expect to receive anything from the Queen. When you do a public service you don't think about these things."

Other OBE recipients included Cliff Bush, chair of NW Surrey Association of Disabled People, who said: "When I received the letter telling me the news, I had to read it several

times before it sank in."

Craig Crowley, chair of UK Deaf Sport, receives an MBE for services to sport. He described it as a credit to those working at UK Deaf Sport. "I am absolutely delighted our work has been recognised in this way," he said.

Swimmer Richard Hudson and archer John Stubbs received MBES for services to disabled sport.

Campaigner Barbara Pointon was awarded an MBE for services to people with dementia.

Mrs Pointon has been a carer for her husband, Malcolm (pictured together, above), who has Alzheimer's disease, for 15 years. She said her "jaw hit the floor" when she found out about the honour.

She said: "I must be the only person to get an MBE for standing up on my hind legs and whingeing. It's something positive that's come out of it all."

## Knighted tycoon defends stores

Retail tycoon Philip Green has defended the access record of his retail empire, just days after the announcement that he was to be knighted.

The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) is supporting legal action from a Derbyshire wheelchair user who is taking Mr Green's Arcadia Group to court under the Disability Discrimination Act.

Joanne Holland claims she could not shop in a Burton store because of a flight of steps.

The Arcadia Group, which also includes Topshop, Miss

Selfridge and Dorothy Perkins, told the DRC it audited half of its 2,500 UK stores for access last year. Two in five were physically inaccessible.

But Mr Green, who was honoured for services to retail, told *DN* that only 9.5 per cent of stores were inaccessible.

He said: "We've only owned the company for three and a bit years. I was not responsible for what went before my time."

"I can't wave a magic wand, but we are not ignoring this — we're making inroads into it."

He said it was not possible to put a lift in some shops, but staff were willing to serve disabled customers in other ways.

But the DRC stood by its figures. A DRC spokesman said large companies like Arcadia could install stair lifts, for example.

"It's not good enough to say that they can't do anything. You can argue about what adjustments can and can't be made to individual stores but the truth is that they should be doing much more," he said.



# Ships heading for DDA

BY JULIE GRIFFITHS

The government should remove the exemption of large passenger ships from the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), according to a new report by its own transport access advisors\*.

Research by the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee (DPTAC) found passengers still encounter barriers at ports and on ships, despite some access improvements.

DPTAC also concluded that the voluntary approach to improving access in the industry had "not been fully effective" and should be reviewed.

Other recommendations included disability awareness training for all staff.

Richard Blakemore, of the shipping safety branch at the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), said: "The

MCA would accept that there is inconsistency in the level of accessibility for disabled persons both in terms of access to the ship as well as facilities on the ship itself."

William Gibbons, director of the Passenger Shipping Association, said: "As an industry body, we could do more to promote awareness and this report has highlighted that. A very large proportion of our market has some form of disability and they are part of our market."

A Department for Transport spokesman could not say when a decision on lifting the DDA exemption would be made.

\* *Review of guidance on the design of large passenger ships and passenger infrastructure to meet the needs of disabled people; for a copy, tel: 020 7944 8012, textphone: 020 7944 3277, or visit [www.dptac.gov.uk](http://www.dptac.gov.uk)*



Striking image: Tom Dale (centre), from creative arts charity Create, helps students from Grange Park School in Kent with impressions of England striker Peter Crouch's robotic goal celebrations. Grange Park students with autism and pupils from The Rochester Grammar School worked together on a music and dance piece inspired by the World Cup.

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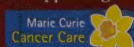
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## 'Parents will choose inclusion when it works'

BY PRIYA KOTECHA

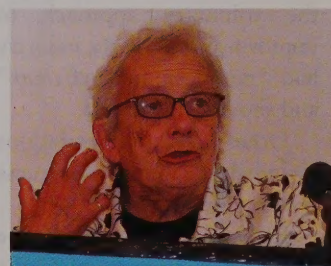
Parents will choose to have their disabled children educated in a mainstream school when they can see that inclusion works, a conference\* organised by disability charity Scope has heard.

Education experts and disability campaigners were discussing effective ways to further the inclusion of disabled pupils.

Andy Rickell, Scope's executive director for diversity, politics and planning, told last month's



Pictured (clockwise, from top left): The panel answer questions; Tara Flood; Baroness Warnock; Andy Rickell; shadow disabled people's minister Jeremy Hunt MP and Scope chair Gerald McCarthy



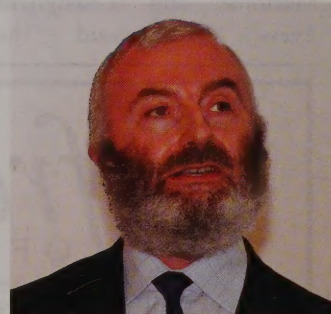
conference in London that teachers could meet the needs of disabled children by learning from the charity's education and exclusion experts.

He said: "That ultimately is the rationale for today. To take what works in the education of disabled children wherever it has worked and make sure it can be used by classroom practitioners everywhere."

He told the conference that a Scope survey found about three in five parents of disabled children were offered "no choice at all" when trying to find a school for their child. He said a culture of real parental choice was "still far off".

Mr Rickell added: "Inclusion will happen when parents choose it because they know it will be the option that best meets the needs of their child, and we know that means they need to see it for themselves."

Some activists were angered by Baroness Warnock's speech, in which she said it was "little short of cruelty" to insist on inclusion for children with autism and Asperger's syndrome and that special



schools might be more appropriate for them and those with emotional and behavioural problems.

Tara Flood, director of the Alliance for Inclusive Education, said afterwards that it was "shameful" Baroness Warnock was allowed to speak at the conference.

She said: "Let's listen to those parents whose severely disabled children are being included. We are not here to discuss impairments, we are here to discuss what works. Those of us who understand that inclusion works must be more vocal."

\* *What Works? Educating Disabled Children for Life.* For more information, email: [talktoscope@scope.org.uk](mailto:talktoscope@scope.org.uk), visit [www.scope.org.uk](http://www.scope.org.uk) or tel: 0808 800 3333.

# Liberty

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# Deaf students' exam blow

BY JULIE GRIFFITHS

The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) is seeking legal advice after exam bodies were accused of denying deaf students fair treatment in the marking of their GCSEs and A-levels.

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) removed adjustments that enabled deaf candidates to be fairly assessed in September 2004.

The adjustments had meant deaf candidates were not required to sit a listening component of an exam, but were awarded an indication of their competence and grade.

Following complaints, the QCA briefly reinstated the adjustment this year. But it will be removed again this summer. The QCA has also removed the use of oral communicators, used to enable deaf students to lip-read sections of a listening module, or interpret some of the language of a question. The exam body says it was

responding to guidance from the exam bodies' organisation, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ).

The JCQ and QCA believe the adjustments must be removed to comply with the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), as exam bodies come under the act for the first time next year.

But a DRC spokeswoman said: "It's a perverse interpretation of the DDA. We're getting a barrister's opinion and, once we have that, we'll be talking to QCA again."

The National Deaf Children's Society said the decision means deaf students will automatically lose 20 per cent of their marks in some subjects. A spokesman said the interpretation was "completely bizarre".

A QCA spokeswoman said: "The regulatory authorities are taking legal advice at the highest level and are working with organisations representing disabled people to decide the best way forward."

## Campaign's childcare victory

Parents of disabled children will receive help with childcare for an extra two years, thanks to lobbying from a disability charity.

The government had planned to give councils a duty to provide childcare for all children under 14 and disabled children under 16, through its Childcare Bill.

But it has now agreed to extend childcare provision to all families with disabled children under 18, following a campaign by Mencap.

Mencap president Lord Rix had presented evidence that many parents of older disabled children find it difficult or impossible to continue to work due to the lack of appropriate childcare.

A report by the Council for Disabled Children found 84 per cent of mothers of disabled children are out of work, compared

with 39 per cent of mothers of non-disabled children.

Mencap found that parents of disabled children aged between 16 and 18 find it particularly hard to find suitable childcare. As a result, many such families live in or close to poverty.

Jo Williams, Mencap's chief executive, said: "This is great news for families with disabled children. At the moment, childcare provision is completely inadequate for older disabled children."

A spokesman for the Department for Education and Skills, which is overseeing the bill, said: "This is a signal that the government recognises that parents of disabled children need childcare help for longer than other parents."

The bill should come into effect in 2008.



No respite: The Princess Royal called for more respite breaks for disabled people and carers, in a speech in London last month. She delivered a lecture for the charity Vitalise\*, and is pictured talking to Gerald and Kathleen Turner, from north London. Vitalise provides breaks at five accessible centres in England. \* [www.vitalise.org.uk](http://www.vitalise.org.uk)

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## DN HACKED OFF

### JOHN STANTON

After three years of hard work, the moment of truth has finally arrived: It's time to find a job

The process of applying for jobs is well underway and now is the time I find out just how hard it is to force my way into a media career.

I've spent three years sacrificing my holidays, weekends and, sometimes, my sanity, to gain the experience needed to earn that all important first job. I've had my first couple of interviews but it is no surprise that it is experience employers value above all else. And that is not a quality a trainee can offer, no matter how much time they've spent pestering real journalists while on work experience. There is no easy way

into the media – nepotism aside perhaps – and in the absence of Fleet Street-based parents, I have worked for free for more time than I care to remember. This is where it should pay dividends. I'm still waiting.

**'It seems there are organisations which recognise the skills disabled people can offer'**

But the painful process of applying for jobs – trawling

newspapers and websites – has highlighted a more positive aspect to the cut-throat media.

It seems there are organisations which recognise the skills disabled people can offer. Rather than paying lip service to equal opportunities, it is refreshing to learn there are media companies which actively recruit disabled people. Positive discrimination may have its critics, but it is reassuring to know at least some media outlets are broadening their horizons and the way they recruit. Channel 4 is one such company presently offering traineeships for dis-

abled people to work in television. It is a commendable scheme and I have no doubt they will benefit from the recruitment of a highly talented journalist.

As for my own prospects, the applications are in the post but my phone remains worryingly silent. Thankfully, my discoveries of the last few weeks mean I'm certain this has nothing to do with disability. It's simply that getting a foot in the media door is increasingly difficult and there are a lot of talented young journalists competing for a small number of jobs.

John Stanton is studying for a postgraduate diploma in journalism. He writes in *DN Extra* every month as part of our Hacked Off campaign to get more disabled people into journalism and stamp out their misrepresentation in the media.

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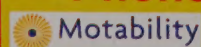
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# Designs for life

When readers cannot find the ideal living aid, they turn to REMAP experts for a solution. Louise Hunt reports on their top designs

**R**EMAP develops one-off devices for disabled people whose needs are not met commercially. The charity has helped more than 80,000 people in 41 years and now has 100 regional panels across England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Scotland has a sister charity), with 1,500 volunteers creating products.

The work of these engineers, occupational therapists

and DIY experts can change clients' lives, according to Mary-Ann Mitchell, REMAP's national organiser.

She says: "For the first time, they might be able to carry out a simple function independently, without their carers."

Last month's REMAP awards described here, celebrated the most recent creations which have made the biggest difference to users' lives.



## DRUMMER BOY

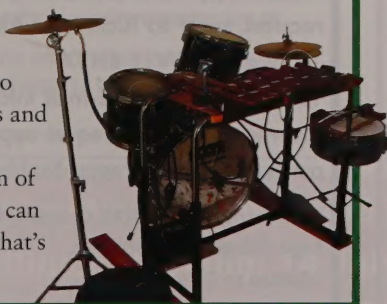
A percussion kit for a teenager with cerebral palsy was this year's overall winner. Isaac Malter loves music and wanted to play an instrument. His father Jeff bought a drum kit, but he could not hold the sticks, so the family contacted REMAP's Basingstoke panel. Isaac led on the design, saying he would be able to play if the drums could be connected electronically to large levers.

Engineer Stan Full created a set of levers, which were wired up so Isaac could bang the drums and create a drum roll, which is his favourite.

Jeff says the kit has made a "fantastic difference" to Isaac's life. "My son is full of ideas and it is not often that they can be carried through to reality."

Bernard Weatherill, Basingstoke panel case officer, says: "He is an extremely bright lad and we knew his real frustration in life is not being able to communicate or join in with normal activities. The kit is also improving his hand movements and co-ordination."

Judge and REMAP chairman of trustees Tony Shipley says: "He can use and develop his talent and that's why it came out top."



## INDEPENDENT DAYS

The Leeds and Bradford panel was rewarded for bringing dignity and independence to a boy who, because of arm impairments, was unable to lower his trousers when he needed to use the toilet.



As a solution, engineer Stanley Morris created a Z-shaped fastener he can flick open to detach or attach his buttons and open and close a Velcro fly. Stanley says: "It was a worthwhile job just to see the look on his face when he first used it."

Occupational therapist Anne-Marie Dennis says: "The great breakthrough is the fact that he has actually started to go to the toilet [alone] for the first time since he started school three years ago."

## SNAPPER SUPPORT

Another prize winner was an adaptation to allow a camera to be operated by mouth. Art student Leanne Beetham wanted to take an AS-level photography course but has almost no movement in her arms or legs. Hull and East Riding panel engineer Brian



Rylance created a camera support attached to her wheelchair that lets her pan and tilt the camera with her mouth and operate it with a lever using the slight movement in her left hand. Leanne has finished the course and says the device has been "very helpful" in driving forward her career. She plans to take a degree in animal behaviour and training, for which she can use her photography skills in observation exercises.

## OTHER WINNERS

**Gloucestershire panel:** A support for a hot drink pump pot allows the user to serve guests from her wheelchair, without needing help from a carer.

**Gloucestershire panel:** Judges praised a cooking station designed to hold food during chopping and open vacuum packs, for a tetraplegic client who uses prosthetic hand grips.

**Doncaster panel:** A mouth-operated drawing board with multi-directional movement, created for a tetraplegic schoolgirl.

**York and District panel:** A knife attachment, which allows a girl to eat school dinners independently with her friends.

**Derby and District panel:** Lightweight secateurs developed for a wheelchair user and keen gardener who has little strength in her arms.

**Leeds and Bradford panel:** A chin-operated joystick allowed a young man use his computer independently for the first time.

To find out more about REMAP, tel: 0845 130 0456, [www.remap.org.uk](http://www.remap.org.uk)



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**Closing date: 5pm on 7th August 2006**

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This post is funded by the Bridge House Trust Fund and is for 12 months.

### Access Officer

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**Closing Date: 5pm on 31st July 2006**

The project involves working closely together with the local authority, voluntary organisations and community groups to implement schemes like Shopmobility, carrying out surveys and promoting awareness of access issues.

You will need to demonstrate good organisational, communication and planning skills, be IT literate and have the ability to work alone as well as part of a team. Experience of a similar role would be an advantage. Knowledge of disability and disability legislation is desirable.

This post is funded by the Big Lottery and is for 3 years.



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Identified by the ODA Transport team as an essential cross-cutting theme, the mainstreaming of access and inclusion will be key to the delivery of a fully inclusive transport network. Consequently, the Principal Access Officer will champion inclusive design within all aspects of the Olympic Transport Plan, ensuring effective delivery of accessible transport for all, including proposals for legacy use.

You will be responsible for developing an accessible transport strategy for all user groups and venues and will be the first point of contact for enquiries relating to accessibility issues. You will also establish, and act as secretariat for, the ODA's Accessible Transport Panel and form effective working relationships with key stakeholders such as Transport for London, transport operators and the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee.

"There is no point us reaching the pinnacle of world sport and inspiring the nation and world by showcasing the greatest one-off event in Olympic History, if we do not use that achievement to fulfil a regeneration promise."  
**Tony Blair, Prime Minister, 2005**

"Delivering venues, facilities and infrastructure which inspire a nation and the world is by no means an easy feat, but creating a place alive with hope that continues to serve and build sustainable communities in this part of London, once the games have been showcased to the world is probably your ultimate challenge."  
**Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London, 2005**

You will have a proven track record of success in leading the design and implementation of accessibility strategies at a senior level in a transport environment and within the context of high-profile and complex projects. You will have experience of engaging with groups representing disabled people and will be able to demonstrate ambassadorial ability and political astuteness, particularly in the context of engaging central and local government, public and private sector organisations and local communities.

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Some time is spent visiting members of the public and council offices, so a willingness to travel (sometimes out of normal office hours) is essential. A current driving licence is essential. (Reasonable adjustments will be made for candidates who are disabled under the terms of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.)

There is a flexi-time scheme and a no-smoking policy. The post may be filled by two part time staff working 17.5 hours per week minimum.

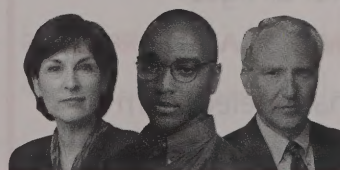
The salary scale is **£30,414 - £38,031** per annum.

For information pack and application form please telephone **08700 435060** quoting reference **B 8521**.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications is Friday 28 July 2006.

For information about the Ombudsman visit our website [www.lgo.org.uk](http://www.lgo.org.uk)

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**DEADLINE – Disability Now August 2006 published 29 July.**  
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**RENAULT TRAFIC 1995** reg, serviced, year's MOT, taxed, carries 1-2 wheelchairs, manual, ramp, 5 seats, used daily. £2,500. Tel: 01277 623423.

**GOWRINGS MOBILITY SWIVEL** seat for front passenger, Max model, 180 degree rotation, will suit any car (brace for Ford Escort included). Two years' old, as new, cost £2,500, will accept £1,000 ono. Tel: 01634 235083 (Rainham, Kent).

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